

Psychology

Practice Questions

A Level
AQA



Instructions

Individual, exam-style questions

The questions contained in this booklet match the style of questions that are typically asked in exams. This booklet is not however, a practice exam. Elevate's research with top students identified that top students do more practice questions than anyone else. They begin the process of testing their knowledge early in the year.

Therefore, we have provided exam-format questions that are sorted by topic so that you can answer them as you learn the information, rather than waiting until the very end of the year to complete exams.

Comments, questions?

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Other information

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MCQs

- 1) The presentation of an aversive stimulus or the removal of a positive stimulus are both examples of:
 - a) Negative reinforcement
 - b) Punishment
 - c) Positive reinforcement
 - d) Secondary reinforcement

- 2) In classical conditioning, learning is evident when a:
 - a) Stimulus automatically produces a response without prior history of experience
 - b) Stimulus which did not initially produce a response now elicits that response
 - c) Spontaneously emitted responses increases in frequency as a result of its consequences
 - d) Subject repeats an action he or she has observed in another and is praised for it

- 3) If the conditioned stimulus is presented many times without reinforcement, we can expect:
 - a) An increase in stimulus generalization
 - b) The strength of the UR to increase
 - c) An increase in response generalization
 - d) Extinction to occur

- 4) In Pavlov's experiments with dogs, the conditioned stimulus was the:
 - a) Food
 - b) Bell
 - c) Salivation to the food
 - d) Salivation to the bell

- 5) The technique of using desensitization involves:
 - a) Flooding the person with images of the feared stimulus
 - b) Gradually exposing the person to the feared stimulus
 - c) Gradually exposing the person to the feared stimulus only when they are fully relaxed
 - d) Systematically increasing the stimulus intensity up to the breaking point

- 6) A coach who benches a player for poor performance is using:
 - a) Aversive conditioning
 - b) Modelling
 - c) Negative reinforcement

- d) Punishment
- 7) A child is conditioned to fear a furry, black cat. Soon she becomes fearful of any black, furry object. Her new response demonstrates:
- a) Spontaneous recovery
 - b) Negative transfer
 - c) Stimulus generalisation
 - d) Operant conditioning
- 8) Acquiring a fear of light because you saw someone else getting shocked when the light came on is an example of:
- a) Vicarious conditioning
 - b) Instrumental conditioning
 - c) Classical extinction
 - d) Vicarious withdrawal
- 9) The tendency for prior learning to inhibit recall of later learning is called:
- a) Encoding failure
 - b) Repression
 - c) Retroactive interference
 - d) Proactive interference
- 10) The image that persists for about one-half second after being seen is a(n):
- a) Sensation
 - b) Echo
 - c) Icon
 - d) Illusion
- 11) The fact that a bodily state that exists during learning can be a strong cue for later memory is known as:
- a) Eidetic imagery
 - b) Redintegration
 - c) State-dependent learning
 - d) The tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon
- 12) _____ concentrates on the meaning of the information you want to remember
- a) Dual memory
 - b) Elaborative rehearsal
 - c) Long term memory
 - d) Maintenance rehearsal
- 13) Transforming incoming information into a usable form is the stage of memory called:
- a) Retrieval

- b) Encoding
 - c) Storage
 - d) Organization
- 14) Memories of historical fact are to _____ memory, as memories of your breakfast this morning are to _____ memory
- a) Episodic; procedural
 - b) Procedural; semantic
 - c) Semantic; episodic
 - d) Long-term; short-term
- 15) The definition of memory is that it is an active system that receives, organizes and:
- a) Stores information
 - b) Decays information
 - c) Filters all incoming information
 - d) Discards old information
- 16) Working memory is associated with which of the following?
- a) Sensory memory
 - b) Short-term memory
 - c) Long-term memory
 - d) Integrated memory
- 17) Freud's theory was based on the belief that neuroses were caused by:
- a) Repressed memories, motives and conflicts
 - b) Learned maladaptive behaviours
 - c) Negative self-regard
 - d) Destructive interpersonal relationships
- 18) Freud considered the distinction between manifest content and latent content essential for:
- a) Free association
 - b) Dream analysis
 - c) Resistance
 - d) Transference
- 19) In psychoanalysis, an emotional attachment to the therapist that symbolically represents other important relationships is called:
- a) Resistance
 - b) Transference
 - c) Identification
 - d) Empathy
- 20) According to Aaron Beck, negative _____ underlie depression:

- a) Unconscious motives
 - b) Unrealistic goals
 - c) Irrational fears
 - d) Self-defeating thoughts
- 21) _____ is any technique involving surgical alteration of the brain:
- a) Ablation lesioning
 - b) Psychosurgery
 - c) Deep ECT
 - d) Psychic surgery
- 22) The prefrontal lobotomy has been replaced by
- a) Electroconvulsive shock
 - b) Deep-lesioning techniques
 - c) PET scans
 - d) X-ray therapies
- 23) In rational-emotive therapy:
- a) Clients are encouraged to take responsibility for their own choices
 - b) Clients learn to challenge irrational beliefs
 - c) The therapists seeks to have the client discover rational insights on his or her own
 - d) Irrational elements of the unconscious are made to conform to reality
- 24) The most appropriate use of electroconvulsive therapy is as a:
- a) Preferred means of treatment for all case of depression
 - b) Preferred mean of treatment of organic psychoses in which brain pathology exists
 - c) Preferred means of treatment for antisocial disorders
 - d) Last resort after other methods have failed and the likelihood of self-destructive behaviour is great
- 25) A problem with aversion therapy is:
- a) Constructing a realistic hierarchy
 - b) Transfer of learning to the real world
 - c) Identifying and removing rewards
 - d) The overuse of habituation
- 26) Which of the following statements regarding the use of drugs for treating schizophrenia is true?
- a) The best new drugs are cure-alls
 - b) A combination of medication and psychotherapy almost always works best
 - c) Drugs work for all patients
 - d) Medication works effectively for 90% of the cases
- 27) The obvious and visible aspects of a dream comprise its:

- a) Manifest content
 - b) Lucid content
 - c) Conscious core
 - d) Latent content
- 28) Symbolic rewards used to encourage positive changes in behaviour are called:
- a) Operants
 - b) Tokens
 - c) Chips
 - d) Strokes
- 29) The cell body of a neuron is also called a:
- a) Axon
 - b) Cell body
 - c) Soma
 - d) Neurilemma
- 30) The part of the nerve cell specialized for conducting information is the:
- a) Axon
 - b) Cell body
 - c) Soma
 - d) Neurilemma
- 31) Which of the following is NOT a part of the neuron?
- a) Axon
 - b) Axon terminal
 - c) Synapse
 - d) Soma
- 32) Acetylcholine, epinephrine, dopamine and histamine are:
- a) Prescription-only drugs
 - b) Synapses
 - c) Neurotransmitters
 - d) Beta blockers
- 33) The conduction of a nerve impulse down the axon is called a(n):
- a) Ion potential
 - b) Action potential
 - c) Resting charge
 - d) Synapse
- 34) Communication within a neuron is _____, while communication between neurons is _____.
- a) Chemical; electrical
 - b) Electrical; mechanical
 - c) Electrical; chemical

- d) Mechanical; electrical
- 35) Nerve cell bodies and dendrites are not only locations sensitive to neurotransmitters. Receptor sites can also be found on:
- a) Muscles and glands
 - b) Skeletal joints
 - c) Axon terminals
 - d) All vital organs
- 36) The “emergency” part of the nervous system that prepares the body for ‘fight or flight’ is the _____ branch?
- a) Sympathetic
 - b) Parasympathetic
 - c) Central
 - d) Peripheral
- 37) The effect of mind-altering drugs may be a result of their:
- a) Toxic effects on sensitive neural tissues
 - b) Ability to lower neural thresholds in brain tissue
 - c) Ability to imitate or block neurotransmitters
 - d) Stimulation of enkephalin production in regulator
- 38) A _____ group is based on social comparison.
- a) Focus
 - b) Personal identification
 - c) Reference
 - d) Comparison
- 39) The process of changing behaviour your behaviour to match that of others in a group is:
- a) Norming
 - b) Forming a social contract
 - c) Conformity
 - d) Standardization
- 40) When a person with little or no authority makes a direct request to another person, the situation involves:
- a) Compliance
 - b) Obedience
 - c) Coercion
 - d) Conformity

MCQ Solutions

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. C
8. A
9. D
10. C
11. C
12. B
13. B
14. C
15. A
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. B
20. D
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. D
25. B
26. B
27. A
28. B
29. C
30. A
31. C
32. C
33. B
34. C
35. A
36. A
37. C
38. C
39. C
40. A



Medium & Long Answer Questions

24 mark qns

1. Discuss biological therapies for schizophrenia. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 8 marks for knowledge and understanding, 16 marks for commentary- evaluation/implications).
2. Outline and evaluate one or more psychological explanation of phobic disorders. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 8 marks for knowledge and understanding, 16 marks for commentary- evaluation/implications).
3. Outline and evaluate issues surrounding the classification and diagnosis of depression. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 8 marks for knowledge and understanding, 16 marks for commentary- evaluation/implications).

10 (4+6) mrk qns

1. Discuss what research has shown about the influence of media on anti-social behaviour. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 4 marks for knowledge and understanding, 6 marks for commentary- evaluation/implications).
2. Discuss the effectiveness of the theory of planned behaviour as a model for addiction prevention. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 4 marks for knowledge and understanding, 6 marks for commentary- evaluation/implications).
3. Discuss what research has shown about the risk factors in the development of addiction. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 4 marks for knowledge and understanding, 6 marks for commentary- evaluation/implications).

10 mark qns

1. “The man found hiding in Sandra Bullock’s Hollywood home last month and charged with stalking the Oscar-winning actress allegedly owns an arsenal of weapons, including illegal machine guns. Less than two weeks ago, reality star Kat Von D contacted authorities about a man – against whom she had gotten a restraining order – who allegedly pledged to “go Columbine in Los Angeles” as an act of revenge.”

Using your knowledge of research into the psychology of ‘celebrity’, explain some of the reasons for celebrity stalking. (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 10 marks)

2. “I was in bed about to go to sleep when the foot of my bed sunk down a bit, like someone was sitting on it. I looked there and saw my dad looking at me. He had a pleading look on his face. I became frightened and his image started getting smaller, like he was backing away from me, until he vanished.”

How would psychological research explain this anomalous experience? (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 10 marks)

3. “I started smoking when I was 13 or 14 years old from the pressure and desire to be “cool”. I seriously became addicted to nicotine at 18 years old and was a pack a day smoker for 17 years. I never considered quitting even though my mother died from cancer and I knew the negative health effects from smoking. The addiction was that strong.”

How could models of addictive behavior be used to explain the maintenance of smoking addictions? (AQA Psychology A, A2 Unit 4; 10 marks)



8-12 mark questions

1. A recent newspaper headline claimed: “Orphaned Children Do Just As Well in Institutions”. Discuss in relation to psychological research. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 12 marks)
2. Describe and evaluate the working memory model (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 8 marks)
3. As more and more mothers are entering or returning to the workforce, the demand for good quality crèches, nurseries and child-minders is growing rapidly. Discuss and evaluate the effect, if any, that day care has on the children's cognitive and social development. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 12 marks)
4. If you wanted to investigate the long term effects of maternal deprivation, what experimental design would you use and why? (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 8 marks)
5. On 1st December 1955 Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old African American woman, refused to give up her seat for a white man, challenging the practice of segregation and igniting a civil rights revolution. How does this fit with what we know about social influence? Can any individual influence social change? (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 2; 12 marks)

4 mark questions

1. Briefly outline and evaluate the impact of misleading information on eyewitness testimonies. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 4 marks)
2. Identify and outline two limitations of the multi-store memory model. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 4 marks)
3. Explain why it may be useful to categorise types of attachment when observing caregiver-infant interactions. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 4 marks)
4. If you wanted to compare explore cultural variations in attachment what experimental design would you use (independent groups, repeated measures and matched pairs) and why? (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 4 marks)
5. Identify and outline two ways of improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimonies. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 1; 4 marks)



6. Briefly outline and evaluate biological methods of stress management. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 2; 4 marks)

7. Explain why it can be useful to approach psychopathology in multiple ways. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 2; 4 marks)

8. Identify and outline two psychological therapies used to treat abnormality. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 2; 4 marks)

9. Sarah went to see a film with a group of 10 friends. She didn't think it was very good but the rest of the group unanimously agreed it was brilliant. When asked, Sarah agreed that the film was good.

With reference to the story above, outline what is meant by social conformity. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 2; 4 marks)

10. Outline and briefly evaluate two ethical issues that need to be taken into consideration when conducting psychological experiments. (AQA Psychology A, AS Unit 2; 4 marks)

